

1 SO. CAL. EQUAL ACCESS GROUP  
Jason J. Kim (SBN 190246)  
2 Jason Yoon (SBN 306137)  
Kevin Hong (SBN 299040)  
3 101 S. Western Ave., Second Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90004  
4 Telephone: (213) 252-8008  
Facsimile: (213) 252-8009  
cm@SoCalEAG.com

5 Attorneys for Plaintiff  
6 YEONG LEE

7  
8 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
9 **CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

10  
11 YEONG LEE,

12 Plaintiff,

13 vs.

14  
15 AMERICAN WINDOW SHUTTERS,  
16 INC.; ADPI, LLC; and DOES 1 to 10,  
17 Defendants.

**Case No.:**

COMPLAINT FOR INJUNCTIVE  
RELIEF AND DAMAGES FOR DENIAL  
OF CIVIL RIGHTS OF A DISABLED  
PERSON IN VIOLATIONS OF

1. AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES  
ACT, 42 U.S.C. §12131 et seq.;

2. CALIFORNIA'S UNRUH CIVIL  
RIGHTS ACT;

3. CALIFORNIA'S DISABLED  
PERSONS ACT;

4. CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY  
CODE;

5. NEGLIGENCE

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19  
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23 Plaintiff YEONG LEE ("Plaintiff") complains of Defendants AMERICAN  
24 WINDOW SHUTTERS, INC.; ADPI, LLC; and DOES 1 to 10 ("Defendants") and  
25 alleges as follows:

26 //

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**PARTIES**

1  
2 1. Plaintiff is a California resident with a physical disability. Plaintiff is a  
3 transfemoral amputee below both thighs and is substantially limited in her ability to walk.  
4 Plaintiff requires the use of a wheelchair at all times when traveling in public.

5 2. Defendants are, or were at the time of the incident, the real property owners,  
6 business operators, lessors and/or lessees of the real property for a window treatment  
7 store ("Business") located at or about 11791 Cardinal Cir., Garden Grove, California.

8 3. The true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate, associate or  
9 otherwise of Defendant DOES 1 through 10, and each of them, are unknown to Plaintiff,  
10 who therefore sues said Defendants by such fictitious names. Plaintiff will ask leave of  
11 Court to amend this Complaint when the true names and capacities have been  
12 ascertained. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and, based thereon, alleges that each such  
13 fictitiously named Defendants are responsible in some manner, and therefore, liable to  
14 Plaintiff for the acts herein alleged.

15 4. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges that, at all relevant  
16 times, each of the Defendants was the agent, employee, or alter-ego of each of the other  
17 Defendants, and/or was acting in concert with each of the other Defendants, and in doing  
18 the things alleged herein was acting with the knowledge and consent of the other  
19 Defendants and within the course and scope of such agency or employment relationship.

20 5. Whenever and wherever reference is made in this Complaint to any act or  
21 failure to act by a defendant or Defendants, such allegations and references shall also be  
22 deemed to mean the acts and failures to act of each Defendant acting individually, jointly  
23 and severally.

24 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

25 6. The Court has jurisdiction of this action pursuant to 28 USC §§ 1331 and  
26 1343 for violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, (42 USC §12101, *et*  
27 *seq.*).  
28

7. Pursuant to pendant jurisdiction, attendant and related causes of action, arising from the same nucleus of operating facts, are also brought under California law, including, but not limited to, violations of California Civil Code §§51, 51.5, 52(a), 52.1, 54, 54., 54.3 and 55.

8. Plaintiff's claims are authorized by 28 USC §§ 2201 and 2202.

9. Venue is proper in this court pursuant to 28 USC §1391(b). The real property which is the subject of this action is located in this district, Orange County, California, and that all actions complained of herein take place in this district.

## FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

10. In or about October of 2023, Plaintiff went to the Business.

11. The Business is a window treatment store business establishment, open to the public, and is a place of public accommodation that affects commerce through its operation. Defendants provide parking spaces for customers.

12. While attempting to enter the Business during each visit, Plaintiff personally encountered a number of barriers that interfered with her ability to use and enjoy the goods, services, privileges, and accommodations offered at the Business.

13. To the extent of Plaintiff's personal knowledge, the barriers at the Business included, but were not limited to, the following:

a. Defendants failed to comply with the federal and state standards for the parking space designated for persons with disabilities. Defendants failed to post required signage such as, “Minimum Fine \$250” and “Unauthorized Parking.”

b. Defendants failed to comply with the federal and state standards for the parking space designated for persons with disabilities. Defendants failed to provide proper van accessible space designated for the persons with disabilities as there were no “NO PARKING” markings, blue borderlines, or blue hatched lines painted on the surface of pavement to indicate the presence of the accessible aisle.

- 1 c. Defendants failed to maintain the parking space designated for  
2 persons with disabilities to comply with the federal and state  
3 standards. Defendants failed to maintain the mark on the space with  
4 the International Symbol of Accessibility, resulting in the paint  
5 becoming severely deteriorated, hindering visibility.
- 6 d. Defendants failed to maintain the parking space designated for  
7 persons with disabilities to comply with the federal and state  
8 standards. Defendants failed to maintain the paint on the ground as  
9 required, resulting in the markings becoming severely deteriorated,  
10 hindering visibility.
- 11 e. Defendants failed to comply with the federal and state standards for  
12 the parking space designated for persons with disabilities. Defendants  
13 failed to provide a proper accessible route as required, as there was no  
14 cutout or ramp to provide a route from the accessible parking spot to  
15 the entrance of the building.

16 14. These barriers and conditions denied Plaintiff full and equal access to the  
17 Business and caused Plaintiff difficulty and frustration. Plaintiff wishes to return and  
18 patronize the Business; however, Plaintiff is deterred from visiting the Business because  
19 her knowledge of these violations prevents her from returning until the barriers are  
20 removed.

21 15. Based on the violations, Plaintiff alleges, on information and belief, that  
22 there are additional barriers to accessibility at the Business after further site inspection.  
23 Plaintiff seeks to have all barriers related to her disability remedied. *See Doran v. 7-*  
24 *Eleven, Inc.* 524 F.3d 1034 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2008).

25 16. In addition, Plaintiff alleges, on information and belief, that Defendants  
26 knew that particular barriers render the Business inaccessible, violate state and federal  
27 law, and interfere with access for the physically disabled.

28



1 nature of the good, service, facility, privilege, advantage, or  
2 accommodation being offered or would result in an undue burden. 42  
3 U.S.C. § 12182(b)(2)(A)(iii).

4 c. A failure to remove architectural barriers, and communication barriers  
5 that are structural in nature, in existing facilities, and transportation  
6 barriers in existing vehicles and rail passenger cars used by an  
7 establishment for transporting individuals (not including barriers that  
8 can only be removed through the retrofitting of vehicles or rail  
9 passenger cars by the installation of a hydraulic or other lift), where  
10 such removal is readily achievable. 42 U.S.C. § 12182(b)(2)(A)(iv).

11 d. A failure to make alterations in such a manner that, to the maximum  
12 extent feasible, the altered portions of the facility are readily  
13 accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities, including  
14 individuals who use wheelchairs or to ensure that, to the maximum  
15 extent feasible, the path of travel to the altered area and the  
16 bathrooms, telephones, and drinking fountains serving the altered  
17 area, are readily accessible to and usable by individuals with  
18 disabilities where such alterations to the path or travel or the  
19 bathrooms, telephones, and drinking fountains serving the altered area  
20 are not disproportionate to the overall alterations in terms of cost and  
21 scope. 42 U.S.C. § 12183(a)(2).

22 21. Where parking spaces are provided, accessible parking spaces shall be  
23 provided. 1991 ADA Standards § 4.1.2(5); 2010 ADA Standards § 208. One in every  
24 eight accessible spaces, but not less than one, shall be served by an access aisle 96 in  
25 (2440 mm) wide minimum and shall be designated “van accessible.” 1991 ADA  
26 Standards § 4.1.2(5)(b). For every six or fraction of six parking spaces, at least one shall  
27 be a van accessible parking space. 2010 ADA Standards § 208.2.4.  
28

1           22. Under the ADA, the method and color of marking are to be addressed by  
2 State or local laws or regulations. See 36 C.F.R., Part 1191. Under the California  
3 Building Code (“CBC”), the parking space identification signs shall include the  
4 International Symbol of Accessibility. Parking identification signs shall be reflectorized  
5 with a minimum area of 70 square inches. Additional language or an additional sign  
6 below the International Symbol of Accessibility shall state “Minimum Fine \$250.” A  
7 parking space identification sign shall be permanently posted immediately adjacent and  
8 visible from each parking space, shall be located with its centerline a maximum of 12  
9 inches from the centerline of the parking space and may be posted on a wall at the  
10 interior end of the parking space. See CBC § 11B-502.6, et seq.

11           23. Moreover, an additional sign shall be posted either in a conspicuous place at  
12 each entrance to an off-street parking facility or immediately adjacent to on-site  
13 accessible parking and visible from each parking space. The additional sign shall not be  
14 less than 17 inches wide by 22 inches high. The additional sign shall clearly state in  
15 letters with a minimum height of 1 inch the following: “Unauthorized vehicles parked in  
16 designated accessible spaces not displaying distinguishing placards or special license  
17 plates issued for persons with disabilities will be towed always at the owner’s expense...”  
18 See CBC § 11B-502.8, et seq.

19           24. Here, Defendants failed to provide the signs stating, “Minimum Fine \$250”  
20 and the additional sign with the specific language stating “Unauthorized vehicles parked  
21 in designated accessible spaces not displaying distinguishing placards or special license  
22 plates issued for persons with disabilities will be towed always at the owner’s expense...”

23           25. For the parking spaces, access aisles shall be marked with a blue painted  
24 borderline around their perimeter. The area within the blue borderlines shall be marked  
25 with hatched lines a maximum of 36 inches (914 mm) on center in a color contrasting  
26 with that of the aisle surface, preferably blue or white. The words "NO PARKING" shall  
27 be painted on the surface within each access aisle in white letters a minimum of 12 inches  
28



1 (305 mm) in height and located to be visible from the adjacent vehicular way. CBC §  
2 11B-502.3.3.

3 26. Here, Defendants failed to provide a proper access aisle as there were no  
4 “NO PARKING” markings, blue borderlines, or blue hatched lines painted on the parking  
5 surface. Moreover, Defendants failed to provide the access aisle with the minimum  
6 width of 96 inches.

7 27. The surface of each accessible car and van space shall have surface  
8 identification complying with either of the following options: The outline of a profile  
9 view of a wheelchair with occupant in white on a blue background a minimum 36” wide  
10 by 36” high (914 mm x 914 mm). The centerline of the profile view shall be a maximum  
11 of 6 inches (152 mm) from the centerline of the parking space, its sides parallel to the  
12 length of the parking space and its lower side or corner aligned with the end of the  
13 parking space length or by outlining or painting the parking space in blue and outlining  
14 on the ground in white or a suitable contrasting color a profile view of a wheel chair with  
15 occupant. See CBC § 11B-502.6.4, et seq.

16 28. Here, Defendants failed to maintain the paint of both the International  
17 Symbol of Accessibility and the borderlines painted on the surface, resulting in the  
18 markings becoming severely deteriorated, hindering visibility.

19 29. At least one accessible route shall connect accessible building, facilities,  
20 elements, and spaces that are on the same site. 1991 ADA Standards § 4.3.2. A public  
21 accommodation shall maintain in operable working condition those features of facilities  
22 and equipment that are required to be readily accessible to and usable by persons with  
23 disabilities by the Act or this part. 28 C.F.R. 35.211(a).

24 30. Here, Defendants failed to provide at least one accessible entrance to the  
25 Business as there was no cutout or ramp connecting the parking space in the parking lot  
26 to the entrance of the building.



1           31. A public accommodation shall maintain in operable working condition those  
2 features of facilities and equipment that are required to be readily accessible to and usable  
3 by persons with disabilities by the Act or this part. 28 C.F.R. 35.211(a).

4           32. By failing to maintain the facility to be readily accessible and usable by  
5 Plaintiff, Defendants are in violation of Plaintiff's rights under the ADA and its related  
6 regulations.

7           33. The Business has denied and continues to deny full and equal access to  
8 Plaintiff and to other people with disabilities. Plaintiff has been and will continue to be  
9 discriminated against due to the lack of accessible facilities, and therefore, seeks  
10 injunctive relief to alter facilities to make such facilities readily accessible to and usable  
11 by individuals with disabilities.

## 12                                   **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

### 13                           **VIOLATION OF THE UNRUH CIVIL RIGHTS ACT**

14           34. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each of the allegations in all prior  
15 paragraphs in this complaint.

16           35. California Civil Code § 51 states, "All persons within the jurisdiction of this  
17 state are free and equal, and no matter what their sex, race, color, religion, ancestry,  
18 national origin, disability, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, sexual  
19 orientation, citizenship, primary language, or immigration status are entitled to the full  
20 and equal accommodations, advantages, facilities, privileges, or services in all business  
21 establishments of every kind whatsoever."

22           36. California Civil Code § 52 states, "Whoever denies, aids or incites a denial,  
23 or make any discrimination or distinction contrary to Section 51, 51.5, or 51.6, is liable  
24 for each and every offense for the actual damages, and any amount that may be  
25 determined by a jury, or a court sitting without a jury, up to a maximum of three times the  
26 amount of actual damage but in no case less than four thousand dollars (\$4,000) and any  
27 attorney's fees that may be determined by the court in addition thereto, suffered by any  
28 person denied the rights provided in Section 51, 51.5, or 51.6.

38. The actions and omissions of Defendants alleged herein constitute a denial of full and equal accommodation, advantages, facilities, privileges, or services by physically disabled persons within the meaning of California Civil Code §§ 51 and 52. Defendants have discriminated against Plaintiff in violation of California Civil Code §§ 51 and 52.

### THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

40. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each of the allegations in all prior paragraphs in this complaint.

42. California Civil Code § 54.3(a) states, “Any person or persons, firm or corporation who denies or interferes with admittance to or enjoyment of public facilities as specified in Sections 54 and 54.1 or otherwise interferes with the rights of an

individual with a disability under Sections 54, 54.1 and 54.2 is liable for each offense for the actual damages, and any amount as may be determined by a jury, or a court sitting without a jury, up to a maximum of three times the amount of actual damages but in no case less than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) and any attorney's fees that may be determined by the court in addition thereto, suffered by any person denied the rights provided in Section 54, 54.1, and 54.2.

43. California Civil Code § 54(d) specifies, "a violation of the right of an individual under Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-336) also constitute a violation of this section, and nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the access of any person in violation of that act.

44. The actions and omissions of Defendants alleged herein constitute a denial of full and equal accommodation, advantages, and facilities by physically disabled persons within the meaning of California Civil Code § 54. Defendants have discriminated against Plaintiff in violation of California Civil Code § 54.

45. The violations of the California Disabled Persons Act caused Plaintiff to experience difficulty, discomfort, and embarrassment. The Defendants are also liable for statutory damages as specified in California Civil Code §55.56(a)-(c).

#### **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

##### **CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 19955, et seq.**

46. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each of the allegations in all prior paragraphs in this complaint.

47. Plaintiff and other similar physically disabled persons who require the use of a wheelchair are unable to use public facilities on a "full and equal" basis unless each such facility is in compliance with the provisions of California Health & Safety Code § 19955 et seq. Plaintiff is a member of the public whose rights are protected by the provisions of California Health & Safety Code § 19955 et seq.

48. The purpose of California Health & Safety Code § 1995 et seq. is to ensure that public accommodations or facilities constructed in this state with private funds

1 adhere to the provisions of Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 4450) of Division 5 of  
 2 Title 1 of the Government Code. The code relating to such public accommodations also  
 3 require that “when sanitary facilities are made available for the public, clients, or  
 4 employees in these stations, centers, or buildings, they shall be made available for  
 5 persons with disabilities.

6 49. Title II of the ADA holds as a “general rule” that no individual shall be  
 7 discriminated against on the basis of disability in the full and equal enjoyment of goods  
 8 (or use), services, facilities, privileges, and accommodations offered by any person who  
 9 owns, operates, or leases a place of public accommodation. 42 U.S.C. § 12182(a).  
 10 Further, each and every violation of the ADA also constitutes a separate and distinct  
 11 violation of California Civil Code §§ 54(c) and 54.1(d), thus independently justifying an  
 12 award of damages and injunctive relief pursuant to California law, including but not  
 13 limited to Civil Code § 54.3 and Business and Professions Code § 17200, et seq.

#### 14 **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

#### 15 **NEGLIGENCE**

16 50. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each of the allegations in all prior  
 17 paragraphs in this complaint.

18 51. Defendants have a general duty and a duty under the ADA, Unruh Civil  
 19 Rights Act and California Disabled Persons Act to provide safe and accessible facilities  
 20 to the Plaintiff.

21 52. Defendants breached their duty of care by violating the provisions of ADA,  
 22 Unruh Civil Rights Act and California Disabled Persons Act.

23 53. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants’ negligent conduct, Plaintiff  
 24 has suffered damages.

#### 25 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

26 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully prays for relief and judgment against  
 27 Defendants as follows:  
 28

1           1.     For preliminary and permanent injunction directing Defendants to comply  
2 with the Americans with Disability Act and the Unruh Civil Rights Act;

3           2.     Award of all appropriate damages, including but not limited to statutory  
4 damages, general damages and treble damages in amounts, according to proof;

5           3.     Award of all reasonable restitution for Defendants' unfair competition  
6 practices;

7           4.     Reasonable attorney's fees, litigation expenses, and costs of suit in this  
8 action;

9           5.     Prejudgment interest pursuant to California Civil Code § 3291; and

10          6.     Such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

11                               **DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY**

12          Pursuant to Rule 38(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiff hereby  
13 demands a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

14  
15 Dated: January 11, 2024

SO. CAL. EQUAL ACCESS GROUP

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18 By: /s/ Jason J. Kim  
19 Jason J. Kim, Esq.  
20 Attorneys for Plaintiff  
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